### Governor Wolf Announces Naloxone Standing Order to Combat Heroin Epidemic

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**Harrisburg, PA –** Governor Tom Wolf today continued his “Government That Works” Tour and announced a significant step forward in his administration’s fight against the heroin epidemic in Pennsylvania. Governor Wolf stood with Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine at the Pennsylvania Medical Society as Dr. Levine signed a statewide standing order for naloxone, a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug. The governor was also joined by Secretary Ted Dallas, Secretary Gary Tennis, Secretary Karen Murphy, and Chairman Josh Shapiro.

“This standing order is the next step in my administration’s fight against the addiction and overdose epidemic in our state,” said Governor Wolf. “We must do all that we can to support those Pennsylvania families suffering from the effects of addiction. I am proud to take this action with my cabinet members today.”

Through the signing of this standing order, Dr. Levine has signed a prescription for naloxone to all Pennsylvanians. For more information about naloxone and how to administer it, please visit the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program’s [page](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/avndxMOcz9J5xxOXXOtPhOrKrjLtVcQsTd7dXCQXTujd7dPhOCOrjKOMOeK--CrjKOOOqenS6mjpACgzkN05m9_iRu00CX4_FqL00jvEf8EIKfZvC7PhOqemrZuVtdAQsLszuXPPxEVVqWdAklrCzBfBgY-F6lK1FJ4SUrKrKr0188qJOSYhGpOFDUElF-1rifQM6qvkfH3Nk5-p-ddfU7xU6s6p5P4wHYgmj6zsWjS9k5brqHs9O-D00jr5SnXCMmd96y2AZwxa14QglyxYjh0Xm9EwxFZg-IfdIECNXbPtvOsQgjT) on overdose reversal.

“Making it possible for all Pennsylvania residents to access the life-saving drug naloxone is a huge victory in our battle against drug overdose deaths in the commonwealth,” said Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine. “I am proud to sign this standing order and continue the efforts of the Wolf Administration to protect the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. This forward-thinking initiative gives people the tools they need to keep their communities and families intact.”

The rise in heroin addiction and prescription drug abuse has quickly led to a public health crisis in Pennsylvania, where 1 in 4 families suffer from the effects of substance abuse addiction. Heroin and opioid overdose are now the leading cause of accidental death in Pennsylvania, killing more individuals than those involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents. In 2014, 2,400 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses.

“Addiction can happen to anyone from any walk of life, and heroin is now the second leading cause of years of life lost,” said Department of Human Services Secretary Ted Dallas. “I am not going to accept that. We must fight to ensure our children, our loved ones, and our neighbors have access to these critical life-saving programs.”

“Too many Pennsylvania families are being affected by this crisis,” said Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Secretary Gary Tennis. “In addition to finding solutions like these to save lives, we are also working hard to raise awareness and break down stigmas about substance abuse disorders. My department will continue to work tirelessly to provide the best possible recovery and treatment options, to ensure that we do not see high rates of overdose recurrences.”

“It is our goal at the Department of Health is to ensure that life-saving resources such as naloxone are available to every Pennsylvanian,” said Department of Health Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy. “Educating Pennsylvanians on how to use naloxone in case of an emergency is essential to curbing the devastating number of opioid-related overdose deaths that we have seen in the commonwealth over the past several years.”

“The opioid epidemic is a serious public health issue and is it also an issue of public safety,” said Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Chairman Josh Shapiro. “PCCD is working to ensure that the healthcare and law enforcement communities are working collaboratively to bring all our resources to this fight.”

Since his inauguration, Governor Wolf has worked with his administration to provide real solutions not only to save lives but also to help addicted individuals and their families get the treatment they need to live long, productive lives. Such actions taken by the Wolf Administration include the development of the [ABC-MAP](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/5fHCNESyMMVtZVeVEVdTdFTKYCqerCzCZPqtXL9CzCVEVjpdFTpop7nvvjdFTpppd7bX3b9IOj8hGow2H4_FqL00jtyvQJnw09LQ7Akmn7-LP3VEVd7bd-LsKCOqenKhLtVVMQsYJt6OaaJPhODOEuvkzaT0QSCrsdTdTdw0yvWvcDOSYhGpMrb3QXxvZfCjMeBjZFZ1WtZwwfjK9lwxasGMFwwn3I2SAvFwwcyhsr40JMf3McUcObxe0l-8b9zhKt9X4G2BJJlK4Vvjw09JyXbZPob6Azh1iuMgB0yq8aNg-9EwtH4QggQ-Evm7CSkjtXsOVIbygrBX) prescription drug monitoring program, the creation of the interagency [Heroin Task Force](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/5fHCN0q6gUSyMMVtZVeVEVdTdFTKYCqerCzCZPqtXL9CzCVEVjpdFTpop7nvvjdFTpppd7bX3b9IOj8hGow2H4_FqL00jtyvQJnw09LQ7Akmn7-LP3VEVd7bd-LsKCOqenKhLtVVMQsYJt6OaaJPhODOEuvkzaT0QSOrsdTdTdw0A4dmVru8RcVkPYkaQ_0JF7Wo7uJIpG_2oGbRITglH0l4448_iAE4hkc6vyxmDY3MY3e3cyUp2h3UwICd6VQDIiEamSRmUjBZe00CSbILTdwIqid459X12k29EwH53UCy1SIjh13jWxZourphdWycIRoOh), the support for the use of [naloxone at schools](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/k-Kr4zqb33BTTAXCzATsSDuXOpEVKqerTdFTKYCqerCzBdASDtBxAttZZcSDtBBAQsLIcICP9cx6Fy0aIj-BGY01dS9_iRu00C_guhhpsvW_cfCzAQsITWZOWr9EVuV6ZTDD3hPORQr8EGTd7avaxVZicHs3jr1JMTsTsSjDdqymokUzkPYolzOSYhGpMzkPYolynclftbydpgEngZroPl-4W5WKB_grJIVlwn9_FYOpvo85Q8JAi-MgbWvqFeFVtqdictlEnDkLhJpqIpBSWunGWnfAXVuCCpg8BQ8JAi-MD92I_bOwnFoDmFZcdPFfoBgkJJGJMDbWs01dInpvKr1oQAq8ajS24E4jh1ma7Nd43JoCy26DR3WMYSOyrY_a4) across the Commonwealth, and stocking all [Pennsylvania State Police cars](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/2DRPowd6Qm67bLL9Td79KVJeZTAPhPsQsTKrjLtVcQsTd7ar9JeXb38WXXWpJeXbb9EVvoppdCip2dj40loDZblU02rIj-BGY01d-wYyyOU_R-ovd79EVpLRXBQSjhOZOdXLfe6zDBHEShhlKqek-l3PWApmU6CTPrxKVKVIDeqR4IMFN6FDUMH7BJUzkPyTMxgIupS4JbQDI_bHlfBrOYWBXr69oL3jWxZovxKt9X4G2BJJlK4Vvjw09JyXbZPob6Azh1iuMgB0yq8aNg-9EwtH4QggQ-Evm7CSkjuv3g) with the naloxone drug. Since equipping State Police cars with naloxone, over 300 lives have been saved with this drug.

Governor Wolf’s 2015-16 budget proposes $7.5 million in funds to provide more naloxone to police and to provide more and better treatment options for Pennsylvanians.

“My administration, law enforcement agencies, those in the health care field, those in county services offices, and many others work hard every day to fight back against heroin epidemic,” concluded Governor Wolf. “My greatest hope is that today’s action will continue to aid these statewide efforts to overcome the addiction and overdose crisis in Pennsylvania.”